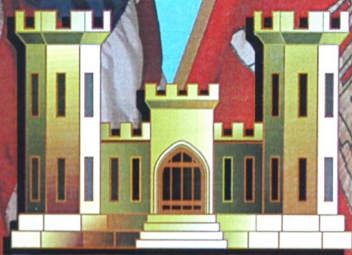


*U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District*

*Change of Command
and
Retirement Ceremony*



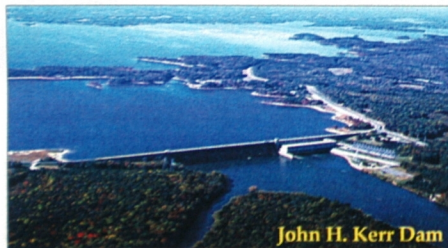
*Thursday, June 13, 2002
10:00 a.m.*

TE-10-10

Wilmington District yesterday, today, tomorrow . . .

Since the late 1700s, the Corps has worked to improve navigation in the coastal regions and rivers of North Carolina. In 1884, a permanent Corps office was established on the Cape Fear River to provide more responsive support to the state's leading port and waterway. From 1794, when the state ceded the land for Fort Johnson to the Federal Government, to the early 1960s, military construction was an important mission for the Wilmington District.

Over the years, the District's role has expanded to encompass river basin management as it constructed and managed dams and reservoirs at Falls and Jordan Lakes in the Raleigh-Durham area and took over management of W. Kerr Scott Lake in Western North Carolina. In 1961, Virginia's Roanoke River Basin, along with the Philpott and John H. Kerr Dams and Reservoirs, became part of our District and our history. This September, the District will proudly celebrate 50 years of operation of the John H. Kerr Dam, and prepares for the future with an ongoing renovation of the dam's hydropower facilities and a comprehensive study of water resources management in the Roanoke River Basin.



John H. Kerr Dam

Our history also traces a growing responsiveness to environmental concerns as the District assumed increased responsibilities for protection of estuarine ecosystems, and established four field offices to provide regulation of wetlands and streams throughout North Carolina.

Since the 1960s, the Wilmington District has assisted coastal communities threatened by severe storm damage. Our shore protection projects and disaster response and recovery operations have proven their effectiveness through several years of severe hurricanes, including Hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996 through Hurricane Floyd in 1999. We remain postured to assist our state partners in responding to future emergencies.

The District has an important mission to serve navigation needs all along the East Coast of the United States. Our three dredges and debris boat help keep shallow-draft navigation channels open from Florida to New England. Our survey fleet charts the safety of navigation channels and assists the Coast Guard in determining storm damage to navigation channels.



Wilmington Harbor Project

Today, the Wilmington District is midway through a construction project to deepen and realign the Cape Fear River Channel to the Port of Wilmington. We are conducting a host of water resources projects that assist local communities in improving their ecosystems and reducing flood damage. We are providing recreation for more than eight million visitors each year at our five reservoirs. We look forward to a future of working with and for our state and local partners to enhance water resources, protect and enhance coastal communities and ecosystems, and sustain environmental excellence for our children and grandchildren.